

**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
Sanctuary Advisory Council**

Final Meeting Notes¹

March 22, 2006

Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Ballroom
1050 Schooner Drive · Ventura, CA

Note: Audio tape recordings of this Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) meeting are available upon request; contact the SAC Coordinator at 805-884-1464.

Attending:

<u>Government Representatives:</u>	<u>Community Representatives:</u>
<u>NOAA Fisheries</u> Member Mark Helvey Alternate Lyle Enriquez	<u>Tourism</u> Member Lauri Baker
<u>National Park Service</u> Member Russell Galipeau Alternate Gary Davis	<u>Non-Consumptive Recreation</u> Member Warren Glaser Alternate Scott Dunn
<u>US Coast Guard</u> Alternate John Luzader	<u>Business</u> Member Bill Spicer Alternate Bill Agosta
<u>Minerals Management Service</u> Member Dr. Fred Piltz	<u>Conservation</u> Member Linda Krop Alternate Greg Helms
<u>CA Department of Fish and Game</u> Alternate Kristine Barsky	<u>Commercial Fishing</u> Member Chris Hoeflinger
<u>CA Coastal Commission</u> Member Rebecca Roth Alternate Jack Ainsworth	<u>Recreational Fishing</u> Member David Bacon Alternate Merit McCrea
<u>Santa Barbara County</u> Member Dianne Meester Alternate Michelle Gibbs	<u>Education</u> Alternate Dan Powell
	<u>Research</u> Member Bob Warner Alternate Dan Brumbaugh
	<u>Public-At-Large</u> Member Jim Knowlton Alternate Phyllis Grifman Member Eric Kett Alternate Matt Lum
	<u>Chumash Community</u> Member Paulette Cabugos

¹Adopted at the May 15, 2006 SAC Meeting.

Absent:

<u>Government Representatives:</u>	<u>Community Representatives:</u>
<u>US Coast Guard</u> Member Ronald Fien	<u>Tourism</u> Alternate Andrea Moe
<u>Minerals Management Service</u> Alternate Dr. Ann Bull	<u>Commercial Fishing</u> Alternate Jim Marshall
<u>Department of Defense</u> Alternate Walt Schobel Member Steven Schwartz	<u>Education</u> Member Barbara LaCorte
<u>CA Department of Fish and Game</u> Member Marija Vojkovich	<u>Chumash Community</u> Alternate Reggie Pagaling
<u>CA Resources Agency</u> Member Brian Baird Alternate Leah Atkins	
<u>Ventura County</u> Member Lyn Krieger Alternate Jack Peveler	

Fourteen of the Council's 21 voting seats were present at roll call, increasing to 18 voting seats before the dinner break, then dropping back to 14 voting seats. The total number of Council representatives (members and alternates) ranged from 24 at roll call, 29 at the peak, and 19 after the dinner break. Two seats were absent for the day: California Resources Agency and Ventura County. Public attendance varied from 4 to 6 people.

Administrative Business and Announcements

New Members

The following new members, who were recently joined or were reappointed to the Council, were announced: Captain David Bacon (Recreational Fishing Member), Merit McCrea (Recreational Fishing Alternate – former Recreational Fishing Member), Reggie Pagaling (Chumash Community alternate – not present), Andrea Moe (Tourism alternate – not present), Jack Ainsworth (California Coastal Commission alternate)

Meeting Notes

The January 20th draft meeting notes were unanimously adopted as final.

Officer elections

The Council unanimously reelected Linda Krop as Vice Chair and Eric Kett as Secretary. No other members were nominated.

Council Member Announcements

Russell Galipeau announces that a bald eagle egg was laid at Santa Cruz Island. Hopefully on April 10th we will have the first bald eagle born since 1949 in the northern Channel Islands. This is proof that we can achieve restoration. But keep your fingers crossed because it's not unusual for a first time breeding female to abandon a nest. Also, the CINP produced a business plan. The purpose of the business plan is to improve the abilities of the park to communicate the business of the park and the financial status of the park to our stakeholders. (Russell distributes publication). On a final note, this community, this sanctuary, the park, the state, put a lot of effort into developing marine reserves. It's very important that we take the next step to assure that the necessary educational outreach and resource monitoring is being carried out.

Linda Krop announced that the Cabrillo Port revised DEIS was released on Monday, March 6. A hearing will be held in Oxnard on April 19 and the comment deadline is April 28th. The California Coastal Commission will meet in Santa Barbara April 11-14. This is the one time per year they meet in Santa Barbara. The Environmental Defense Center and other groups will host a reception for the Commission on April 12 at 7pm. April 20th in Santa Barbara is Earth Day Dine Out, and April 23rd is the Earth Day celebration in Santa Barbara.

Rebecca Roth announced that the Public Policy Research Institute completed a survey of all Californians. It's fairly accurate with a 2% margin of error. Over 70% of Californians favor creating more marine reserves off the coast of California. Nine in ten Californians consider Ocean and Beach water quality pollution from streets and storm drains a problem. Rebecca has an extra copy if anyone is interested.

Chris Hoeflinger has been working to try to strengthen the monitoring at Channel Islands, and it's very difficult to do. He went to the last Fish and Game Commission meeting and asked them to strengthen the fishing part of the monitoring that the RAP noted this is lacking. He asked a few of the Commissioners if they would not support any new MPAs until they provide the funds they agreed to provide to monitor Channel Islands MPAs. Chris has a draft letter he would like the Advisory Council to consider that would ask Vice Admiral Lautenbacher to tell the Sanctuary Superintendent to reinstate the sustainable fisheries goal. When you look at this letter, Chris said, think about how you would feel if a goal you supported was removed. Chris believes the Sanctuary Superintendent's justification is technically flawed. He suggests a future agenda item on this, but he passed around the draft letter for now.

Fred Piltz recalled a prior announcement on the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the new Coastal Impact Assistance program for which HQ is working on criteria. The comment period for criteria ends April 27th. The criteria can be found at www.mms.gov web site by clicking on "energy."

Dianne Meester noted that the County of Santa Barbara adopted changes to oil and gas policies. These policies essentially recognize that the facility at the Gaviota tunnel is not used as a facility for oil and gas anymore, and neither is the marine terminal. The amendments would be at the Coastal Commission on 4/12.

Jim Knowlton noted the Ocean Futures Society new show *Voyage to Kure* will premier April 5th. In *Voyage to Kure*, Jean-Michel Cousteau and his team explore the 1,200 mile long chain of

the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. The Northwest Hawaiian Islands are in the process of becoming the 14th National Marine Sanctuary – and if it is created, the area in the new Sanctuary will cover an area 7 times larger than all of the other Sanctuaries combined. In the show they encounter healthy corals, fish, shark and bird populations. But strikingly, they find that the islands are a collecting zone for global debris that washes up on shores. It will be broadcast in two one-hour shows: April 5th and April 12th at 8 pm, on local KCET PBS affiliate. Jim brought some press kits and brochures if anyone is interested.

David Bacon reserved his time for comments coming up on agenda items. He announced that on March 23, 2006 he will provide a talk at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum on fishing in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Eric Kett announced that on Feb. 18th his new daughter was born. Also, he noted that it is whale time in the Santa Barbara Channel and there are many whales. He read an article on gray whales that stated that they were formerly called “Devilfish.” This is because they were known to turn on those who were trying to fish them. So be careful while viewing whales from small boats!

Kristine Barsky announced that CDFG used sportfish restoration money to develop a new rockfish identification poster that is being distributed to all Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel. She announced that she is happy to get them for anyone who is interested. Chris Hoeflinger noted that every harbor has a bulletin board and it would be nice to see them posted there. Kristine said she would be willing to see what she can do.

Bill Spicer announced that the Santa Barbara waterfront is slated to be analyzed for water quality this summer by an independent (private) agency. Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager would be excited to present to the SAC on the Harbor's Clean Marine Program.

Dan Brumbaugh organized a symposium at the annual AAAS meeting that focused on the integration of physical, biological, and human sciences for MPA network design in The Bahamas.

Scott Dunn announced that humpback whales are back already. On Monday he saw one that had a third of its fluke cut off. Scott notes he hasn't heard much about responsible wildlife viewing programs.

Gary Davis had a meeting trying to get a Department of Interior marine research program to focus on marine reserves. Gary asked if he could talk to Chris Hoeflinger at the break about his ideas on monitoring.

Michelle Gibbs announced that Santa Barbara County water quality program plan is being evaluated. If anyone is interested in Project Clean Water stakeholders meeting let her know and she'll add you to the mailing list.

Matt Lum said a friend of his caught a 12-pound lobster, took a picture of it and then let it go into an MPA. He commented on the potential use of marine reserves for depositories of catch-and-release animals.

Phyllis Grifman announced that Sea Grant is reviewing proposals, and ¼ of them are on MPAs and Channel Islands. In next year there should be a good cohort of research programs starting or continuing on MPAs at the Channel Islands. One project will look at site fidelity of organisms. NOAA Coastal Services Center does trainings and conducted one on project design and evaluation that was outstanding. It's a two-day course, they pay for everything except the meeting room, and you only need 15 people signed up. Good for people trying to reach stakeholder consensus.

Superintendent's Report:

Chris Mobley explained the change in the name from "Manager's Report" to "Superintendent's Report": all Sanctuary Managers are now called Sanctuary Superintendents; a change made not based on promotions but rather just to create uniformity across the NMSP in position titles. He highlighted several items in the Manager's Report (provided to all SAC members and the attending public and available at <http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/super.html>).

CINMS Announcements:

Management Plan Update

Sarah MacWilliams reported that there are just a few more steps to cover before public release of the draft management plan and draft EIS will occur. She explained that NOAA's Vice Admiral Lautenbacher recently granted clearance on the Proposed Rule (proposed regulatory changes), but that a final clearance is also needed from the Department of Commerce and should come very soon. Sarah said that the bulk of the remaining steps now have to do with lining up the printing service, the mailing and distribution, and final transmittal letters.

Mike Murray added that it might be possible to release the DMP/DEIS in April, but that a decision on that has not yet been made. If that were to happen, Mike said, the SAC might be asked to participate in a special roll-out meeting session to kick-off the 60-day comment period. Mike said he will keep the Council up to date via email.

Marine Reserves Process Update

Chris Mobley explained that the marine reserves draft EIS has been submitted for the start of the NOAA clearance process, and that he hopes to see it ready for release shortly after or at the close of the draft management plan comment period.

Chris Mobley announced that the CINMS Research Coordinator position should be open for applications very soon; possibly within a few weeks. Council members will be notified via email.

CINMS Budget Report

Chris Mobley reviewed the trend and status of the CINMS operational budget over recent fiscal years (October through September), noting the following:

- 2004 - \$2.3 mil.
- 2005 - \$2.3 mil. (creating a slight loss in discretionary funds due to inflationary effects)
- 2006 - 17% cut (causing a substantial cut non-fixed costs)
- 2007 – Unknown but based on initial House and Senate marks for NOAA and the NMSP, CINMS is getting ready for another 10% cut. This will mean soft money, grants, partnerships, etc. will be needed to pay for non-fixed costs/programs.

Updates and Comment on the SAC Chairs Annual Meeting:

Council members engaged in discussion about items appearing on the annual SAC Chairs' meeting (April 26-27, Washington DC). These comments were directed to Chair Dianne Meester to provide her (and Mike Murray) with suggestions, comments and questions that members felt were important to be shared at the annual Chairs meeting.

Chris Hoeflinger highlighted the continued need for better coordination between agencies on monitoring, noting that the marine reserves present an excellent learning opportunity but the kind of coordinated monitoring identified as being needed, and funding for it, has not materialized. Linda Krop asked that a sentiment of support for restoring the CINMS budget be expressed at the meeting. Rebecca Roth highlighted the point that CINMS seems to go to great lengths with outreach to NOAA Fisheries, but does not see that being recognized by upper NOAA or reciprocated to a similar extent. Chris Hoeflinger also mentioned that there seems to be a lack of transparency regarding the decision-making that occurs at NMSP headquarters and NOAA.

Fishing Regulations in National Marine Sanctuaries:

Sanctuary Superintendent Chris Mobley and Mark Helvey with NOAA Fisheries led a presentation and discussion on a draft flowchart that explains how NOAA approaches use of National Marine Sanctuary Act (NMSA) and/or Magnusen-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) authority to address fishing regulations within national marine sanctuaries. The goal was to provide an opportunity for Council members to understand more about this process and then provide comments or questions to SAC Chair Dianne Meester that she would share at the April 26-27 annual SAC Chairs meeting in Washington DC.

The presentation focused on the NOAA process for fisheries management when both the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) and the Magnusen-Stevens Act (MSA) may apply. The slides and the handout were provided to the Council and are available to others upon request to the Advisory Council Coordinator (michael.murray@noaa.gov). Chris explained in his presentation that NOAA leadership considers both acts, and can use them either exclusively or together, and evaluates each situation on case by case basis to determine which legal authority is most appropriate to address given issues. Whether the process starts in the NMSA or MSA, in either case both laws require that the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) be involved with and play a role in the regulations being developed. There was discussion between a few Council members who were involved in the marine reserves process from 1999-2001. This discussion brought forth disagreements about: how the process occurred during the marine reserves development in 1999-2001 in contrast to how it was explained that it would happen (with regards to which agency would take the regulatory lead); the nature of comments previously made by the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) in review of advice and analysis that the SAC's Science Advisory Panel had provided to the MRWG; and why the SAC did not subsequently investigate those SSC comments as problematic.

The council provided a variety of comments, suggestions and clarifications on the wiring diagram for Dianne to share at the national meeting:

Bob Warner noted that while sanctuaries have an NMSA legal requirement [NMSA Sec. 304(a)(5)] to consult closely with Fishery Management Councils, there is apparently no similar legal mandate that forces Fishery Management Councils to engage in that process.

Bob Warner also commented that when a PFMC action could affect a national marine sanctuary, Fishery Management Councils should proactively come to the sanctuary, rather than the sanctuary needing to go to every Fishery Management Council meeting.

Greg Helms noted that the NMSA is so strict with regard to how Sanctuaries must consult with Fishery Management Councils, but the reverse is not true in law or practice.

Rebecca Roth commented that CINMS seems to go to great lengths with outreach to NOAA Fisheries and the PFMC, but does not see that being recognized by upper NOAA or reciprocated to a similar extent.

Rebecca Roth also commented that it is important to point out that the CINMS marine reserves process has been essentially getting delayed by the PFMC, despite the fact that they have known about this process since 1999.

Chris Hoefflinger said that CINMS SAC and RAP meetings about fishing and marine reserves should not happen without the PFMC being there.

Chris Hoefflinger suggested that the wiring diagram should also reflect the need for NOAA/state coordination, and that joint environmental review processes would be more efficient (and should have happened for CINMS). Mobley/Helvey said this sounds like a suggestion that Box 3 on the diagram be developed with more details, perhaps its own flowchart.

Chris Hoefflinger also mentioned that there seems to be a lack of transparency regarding the decision-making that occurs at NMSP headquarters and NOAA. For example, why no disclosure of how NOAA reached a decision on use of NMSA and MSA for CINMS reserves? The letter from VADM Lautenbacher to PFMC was not enough information/disclosure.

Greg Helms commented that agencies (not just NOAA) have the discretion and a responsibility to make final decisions, and you don't always get to see all the notes leading up to that decision.

Scott Dunn said that it would be helpful to see a real example of this whole process explained.

Chris Hoefflinger said he feels that the diagram does not agree with what was explained as the CINMS marine reserves process during the MRWG years, and that what has actually transpired is also not true to what was explained and expected. Some SAC members disagree with the details here.

Other Council member comments were made relating to fishing and Sanctuaries, but more so specific to CINMS than to the draft flow chart:

David Bacon (Recreational Fishing): The flow chart looks fine but it's based on an idea that recreational anglers (including large groups and organizations) are adamantly opposed to – the use of the NMSA to regulate fishing. Any attempt to change the CINMS designation document to allow for this is like breaking a contract. Capt. Bacon read statements that included the following:

- 1) From Joel Greenberg with Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA): "Jim Martin's position (as West Coast Director of RFA) was expressed in the PFMC Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) advice to the Council. Jim is a member of GAP. They voted unanimously to oppose using NMSA authority for fisheries regulation. Subsequently, the PFMC concurred: 'The Council

elected to not forward any proposed fishing regulations for the CINMS under the regulatory authority of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. Instead, the Council passed a motion to develop regulations that achieve the stated goals and objectives of the CINMS under the aggregate of the various Council FMP authorities and complimentary State laws.’ In order to gain authority to regulate fisheries requires the CINMS to obtain a modification of their designation document. Any request to do so is tantamount to breaking a contract with the state of California, the coastal communities in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties and fishing stakeholders. This is also a dangerous precedent-setting request.

- 2) From Tom Raftican with United Anglers of Southern California: “Currently, fisheries in the US (EEZ) are managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under authority from the Magnusen Stevens Act. NMFS uses a “Council” system for advice – enter the “Pacific Fishery Management Council.” NMFS is a division of NOAA, the Councils are budgeted separately and advise the NMFS. NOAA has another “division,” the National Marine Sanctuaries, and that is managed through a separate act. The sanctuaries do not employ a single fisheries manager, yet are seeking a change in management. We believe the current system works well and that management should not be shifted to the sanctuaries.”
- 3) From Bob Fletcher, Sportfishing Association of California (SAC): “We are working with Congress to clarify the line of authority regarding issuing fishing regulations, and we hope to see it spelled out in the reauthorization of the MSA. All of us in SAC as well as others in the recreational fishing sector that I am talking with feel the same way. We definitely do not want to see the CINMS change their designation document, which is required before they can legally issue fishing regulations. The best approach is that the Sanctuaries be required to recommend any fishing regulations they want adopted by the regional fishery management council, and then that Council would be free to discuss and then adopt or reject the proposed regulation.”

Chris Hoefflinger: Feels it is wrong that the MRWG-developed “sustainable fisheries” goal for CINMS marine reserves is not being used as part of the Sanctuary’s “purpose and need” rationale in its upcoming DEIS on reserves. Wants NOAA to step in and reverse that; have CINMS redo its analysis.

Chris Hoefflinger highlighted the continued need for better coordination between agencies on monitoring, noting that the CINMS marine reserves present an excellent learning opportunity but the kind of coordinated monitoring identified as being needed, and funding for it, has not materialized.

Public Comment (1st of two):

Dr. Satie Airame with the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) described the organization and announced the availability of newest edition of Coastal Connections, a PISCO newsletter. Dr. Airame distributed copies to all Council members and mentioned a variety of articles contained within the issue.

Jim Ruche commented that the Advisory Council ought to be interested in receiving information from NOAA regarding why a decision was not made to defer completely to the Magnusen Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act for any marine reserve closures within federal waters of the Sanctuary, and reasoned that either there must have been a problem with the compatibility of goals and objectives or a failure of the analytical process. The lack of transparency in the NOAA decision-making on this is frustrating, he said, and should be something requested by the Advisory Council.

Update on Acoustic Monitoring and Vessel Traffic Tracking

Dani Lipski, CINMS Research Assistant, presented an update on Acoustic monitoring in and around the Sanctuary. Dani introduced the topic by providing background on the Advisory Council's involvement in this issue and then summarized the work of a Sanctuary research partner, Dr. John Hildebrand of Scripps. A one page summary hand out was provided to the Council and is available on request.

Working Group Reports

Conservation Working Group

Linda Krop reported that the group met on March 21 to learn about and review preliminary draft sections of a report on aquaculture, as well as to discuss the status of the marine reserves process and management plan release schedule. Linda reported that the working group would like to present a draft aquaculture report to the SAC in July and have action be considered by the Council at the September meeting. Linda also reported that the group supports the submittal of an abstract to the California and the World Ocean 2006 conference about the SAC/Working Group process they have been using for the last few years to affect marine conservation.

Recreational Fishing Working Group

No report was provided by David Bacon or Merit McCrea given comments made during other agenda items

Commercial Fishing Working Group

No one present to give a report

Research Activities Panel (RAP)

Bob Warner reported that the RAP has not met since just before the last SAC meeting. He also mentioned that he had heard that the California Department of Fish and Game views the SAC and RAP as providing a "community oversight" function for the state MPAs in CINMS that satisfies the original request for such oversight made by the MRWG. He suggested that if this is the case then Fish and Game should come talk to the SAC about this. Bob also said that when staff complete an MPA monitoring status report, it should be distributed to all SAC working groups for review, not just the RAP.

Chumash Community Working Group

Mike Murray reported for Paulette Cabugos that the group had their first public meeting on February 19th at the Santa Ynez Reservation, that it was fairly well attended, and that he and Chris Mobley provided an orientation session and engaged in discussions about how the group and CINMS might work together. They plan to meet next on April 9.

Sanctuary Education Team (SET)

Dan Powell reported that he and Barbara LaCorte met in January for SET planning. They then met with CINMS education staff in February, where the group chose three focal topics for SET: Marine Reserves, Water Quality, and Ocean Literacy. The group also discussed possible formation of a CINMS education/outreach Speakers Bureau and a shore-based naturalists group.

The first SET meeting was on March 7 and there were half a dozen attendees. This was a SET recruitment and planning meeting, where the three selected focal topics were presented and attendees were asked if there was interest in supporting them or other possible topics.

CINMS educators indicated they could use assistance with assessing existing marine reserves programs and implementation methods. They also recommended SET finish previous work on presentations for education and outreach use.

Barbara will be in charge of finishing SET presentations along with planning for a Speakers Bureau and a shore-based naturalists group. Dan will be working on marine reserves programs by first assessing the 2002 SET matrix, for identifying what has been completed and what needs to be done, and then integrating it with a similar Stellwagen Bank NMS matrix that lists implementation strategies.

The next SET meeting is scheduled for April 4 at Ventura Museum of History and Art.

Non-Consumptive Recreation Seat Outreach Report

No report provided by Warren Glaser.

CINMS Water Quality Program Planning

Donna Meyers, West Coast Regional Water Quality Coordinator for the National Marine Sanctuary Program, provided an update on efforts to incorporate the Council's previously adopted water quality management recommendations into an emerging framework, and reviewed a process plan for developing a water quality protection program at CINMS. Her power point slides are available upon request.

Public Comment (2nd of 2)

Carrie Bluth with the California Coastal Commission's Ventura office greeted the Council and expressed support for and interest in the efforts to develop a water quality protection program.

Channel Islands Marine Protected Area Management

Education

Julie Bursek, CINMS Education Coordinator provided a brief overview of MPA awareness education efforts made to date by the Sanctuary, as well as those in progress or planned.

Efforts highlighted included "Protecting your Channel Islands" brochure, "Boating and Safety" brochure, Marine Reserves section on CINMS website, From Shore to Sea lecture series, California signage plan for launch ramp sites, non-consumptive user survey, a panel at the World Oceans Conference & electronic charts chip upgrades.

Range Marker Installation: Consideration of ideas developed by the Recreational Fishing Working Group

Merit McCrea, Recreational Fishing seat alternate, provided a powerpoint presentation on what range markers are, how are they used, and how they may benefit Sanctuary users and enforcement. He proposed the drafting of a letter to the Sanctuary Superintendent supporting the establishment of range markers. The slides are available on request.

SAC members engaged in discussions, with a variety of views expressed in support of as well as against the idea of range marker installation for MPA boundary demarcation.

Although not present for the presentation and discussions, Channel Islands National Park Superintendent Russell Galipeau left a written comment that Chair Dianne Meester read to all: "1) Reserves were deliberately placed to identify landmarks that could be identified from the water. 2) 80% of the Park and State waters and a greater percentage of the Sanctuary waters are generally not restrictive. Thus, the reserves are a significantly small portion of the area available to fish. 3) Land-based markers are intrusive and have limited effectiveness offshore. Other navigational aids are much more effective and are available. 4) Lastly, our records indicate excellent compliance. We should continue to focus on education and awareness to make sure all fishers know about the reserves.

Greg Helms expressed support for range markers if will help compliance.

Scott Dunn expressed concerns, noting that boaters should be responsible for their own navigation and planning. Scott said he would be disturbed by a disruption of the pristine environment, and thinks the markers will not be seen well from the water.

Capt. David Bacon said he helps boaters use electronic devices and many are not able to use them properly. He questions the accuracy of electronic products, and feels that range markers could help with compliance.

Phyllis Griffman noted that education would have to be provided to help people understand the markers, and if that would be needed than why not just educate users where boundaries are and how to use natural markers.

Eric Kett said that the markers would not have to be obtrusive, and that you must know where they are to look for them.

Scott Dunn reminded people that MPA compliance is high, and stated that there should be responsibility if you are running a boat.

Rebecca Roth asked what other options might be available, and suggested that it might be good to educate group about more options.

Dan Powell, following on Russell's comment about natural features, suggested that it might be possible to photograph the natural boundary markers and provide education about them.

Eric Kett stated that while MPA compliance is currently high, that's because the sites are too young now to have resulted in incentive for someone to poach. Eric said he thinks that range markers could be seen from 3 miles off shore, and that the maximum benefit of the markers will be provided in the future.

A straw poll was called for by the Chair and indicated that nine members were interested in continued consideration of the issue and Merit's letter, and no-one was opposed (however, several abstained from declaring support or opposition).

Members voiced interest in becoming more educated about range markers and other alternatives, and as such it was agreed that the issue would be revisited at the next SAC meeting.

Future SAC meeting schedule and agenda topics

The Executive Committee will consider placing on a future agenda a draft SAC letter submitted by Chris Hoeflinger that seeks to request that NOAA's VADM Lautenbacher instruct that the CINMS marine reserves EIS process be stopped and revised with the former Marine Reserves Working Group "sustainable fisheries" goal made an explicit part of the purpose and need for action.

Range marker installation for MPAs within CINMS, and Merit McCrea's associated proposed letter of support, was requested to be revisited at the next SAC meeting.

Sanctuary staff will inform the SAC via email with regard to the timing of the public release of the draft management plan and draft environmental impact statement; an April release may be possible and could result in a special SAC session.

Schedule for future SAC meetings & events:

- April 26-27, 2006: Annual SAC Chairs & Coordinators Meeting, Washington DC (Dianne Meester to attend)
- Monday, May 15, 2006 (afternoon/evening format): SAC Meeting, Warren Hall, Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara [Note: this is a rescheduled date]
- Friday, July 21, 2006: SAC Meeting, Ventura
- Friday, September 22, 2006: SAC Meeting, Santa Barbara
- Friday, November 17, 2006: SAC Meeting, Ventura

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary staff:

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